

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

An Albino Fox Sparrow in Delaware County, Ohio.—An albino Fox Sparrow was noted here on April 16, 1923, the colors of which were in striking contrast. It had only a few faint brownish stripes on the head and chin, while the neck, breast, and more than half of the back and wings were pure white. The color lines were as clear cut as though they had been painted by hand. The remaining parts were of the normal Fox Sparrow coloration. The bird was in a small company of about fifteen birds.—CHARLES R. WALLACE, *Delaware, Ohio*.

A Community Nesting Tree.—On June 11, 1925, I visited a large dead maple standing on the edge of a small swampy pond, and found it to contain three nests of the European Starling, one of the Red-headed Woodpecker and one of the Sparrow Hawk. All of the parents were busily feeding their young at the time. Almost under the tree, in the sedges, was a nest containing three young Red-winged Blackbirds. In 1924 this same tree held one nest each of young Starlings, Red-headed Woodpeckers and Bluebirds, while a Robin had built a nest in a crotch earlier in the season.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio*.

A Red-shouldered Hawk Overcome by a Snake.—On April 7, 1925, a friend observed an adult Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*) lying perfectly helpless in a Chester Valley meadow, its wings bound to its body by the coils of a thirty-inch common water snake. The reptile was dispatched, and the apparently uninjured bird was then brought to me. Since this species habitually feeds upon snakes, this incident caused some speculation until it was observed that the bird had lost its left foot, the well-healed stump alone remaining. The *modus operandi*, as I have noticed in the various captive hawks that I have had, is to primarily catch with a single set of talons, and as the snake throws its coils upward it is met by the swift thrust of the set in reserve, which renders the reptile helpless; this our crippled bird was unable to accomplish because of its previous encounter with a steel trap. The hawk proved to make a perfectly docile pet, but after feeding it for a few days I released it with band No. 292431.—FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

Swainson's Hawk in Clayton County, Iowa.—I wish to record the taking of a male Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) along the Mississippi River, a few miles south of McGregor, Iowa. It had been dead for at least ten days when I secured it, on October 29, 1925. It was nearly in a doubtful condition, but I saved the skin, and it is now mounted and in my collection. Kumlien and Hollister in their "Birds of Wisconsin" give this bird as a possible fall migrant on the Mississippi River and Chapman in his "Handbook" gives it as a summer resident in southeastern Minnesota. I have examined a great many dead hawks, due to the deadly persecution of them by farmers, all of them Red-tailed Hawks, and this is the first individual, dead or alive, of the above species, that I have seen here. Without doubt it is a rare bird in northeastern Iowa. The hawk was gorged with flesh, and, as the hunting season was on, I presume that it had fed upon a crippled or dead duck that it had found, or some other bird that had been shot, as I found seven number four shot among the stomach contents.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa*.